Polio Eradication Programmes

1724. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of Polio in the country;

(b) what steps are being taken to eradicate Polio completely from the country;

(c) what special programmes are being undertaken to educate people about Polio;

(d) the total grants sanctioned for Polio eradication in the country; and

(e) the States which have given very good results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) India reported 68% of global polio cases in 1998. In 1999 this has been reduced to 31%. During 1998, 4322 cases of confirmed polio had been reported which have come down to 2734 during 1999.

(b) and (c) For eradicating polio from the country, the Pulse Polio Immunization campaign was launched in 1995-96. In this campaign all children upto the age of 5 years are given polio drops on a single day. Upto 1998-99, two rounds of Pulse Polio campaign were conducted every year during December and January. Based on the surveillance data and expert advice, the efforts have now been intensified and during 1999-2000; four rounds of PPI are being held throughout the country followed by two additional rounds in eight high risk States of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. The intensive rounds are spread over 3-4 days. On the first day the children are immunized at the fixed polio booths and from 2nd day onwards teams of health workers go from house to house to immunize children who may be left over from the first day. States have been provided with funds to create awareness through information, education and education efforts and by involving the Panchayat members for reaching all children in the age group of 0—5 years. In addition, the Government is also taking steps to improve the routine immunization programme (including polio) all over the country.

(d) Rs. 542/- crores have been earmarked during 1999-2000 for procurement of vaccines and for assisting the States for IEC and travel mobilization, booth management and transport and POL.

(e) All States have shown good progress in polio eradication efforts. Notable progress have been observed in Orissa, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

Unequal Salary to T.B. Inspectors

†1725. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that out of the total number of T.B. Inspectors, approximately seventy are such who have been working on temporary basis and getting a salary of rupees four thousand only, whereas permanent Inspectors are getting around rupees seven to eight thousand as salary, and besides this, separate payment is made for visiting the house for giving medicine but this facility is not available to the temporary Inspectors;

(b) if so, reasons for this dual system;

(c) whether Government are going to make efforts for payment of equal salary; and

(d) if so, by when and how?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Under the National T.B. Control Programme, there is not post of T.B. Inspector.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Shortage of Polio vaccines

1726. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:
DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the immunisation campaign in India has been handicapped by a global shortage of Polio vaccines, while almost 60 per cent

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.